



Charlotte Mason's House of Education,
Scale How, Ambleside, UK, 2009

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Lectures to Young People on "The Wonders of Creation," by Mr. Cecil Carus-Wilson, F.R.S.E., &c.—Owing to the success of the first course of lectures, and in accordance with the wishes of many who attended them, arrangements are being made for the delivery of four more lectures by Mr. Cecil Carus-Wilson during the month of February. The titles of the lectures are:—(1) "The Earth as a Planet"; (2) "Limestones and Coral Reefs"; (3) "The Origin of Coal"; (4) "The Earth's Unstable Crust." The course will be delivered at the Horbury Rooms, Notting Hill Gate, on Thursdays, at 5.15 p.m., and as the number of tickets issued will be limited to 350, those wishing to attend should apply early.

We hear from Madame de Goeij that the Belgian ladies are making efforts to circulate the P.N.E.U. thought. Madame de Goeij, whose former letter to us on the subject seems to have miscarried, says—"At our meeting in June, it was decided, quite contrary to English notions, to issue first a simple review in pamphlet form, and so try to form a nucleus of a few initiated persons before forming a regular Society. I found this an extraordinary idea at first, and was rather disappointed, especially as I had every reason to hope that we could at once have begun with about 50 members We have been rather longer than we expected in getting in our MSS., but hope to have the first number out next week . . . I was getting quite hopeless, for it is now four years since I first tried, with the help of Madame de Grunne, to do something for P.N.E.U. thought in this country, but things are looking brighter." Members of the P.N.E.U. will, we know, heartily sympathize with the long continued efforts of these Belgian ladies. We believe that their efforts will result in a great success, for *pari passu* with their movement is one which has been initiated by M. de Vuyst, Minister of Agriculture and of Public Works, and Professor Proost of the Louvain University, and that has already issued in the publication of an admirable pamphlet entitled *l'Education Familiale*, which sets forth lines of work for the new Society and is to be followed by bulletins of progress. The Society for *l'Education Familiale* differs a little from the P.N.E.U. It addresses itself to mothers only, and includes regular courses of lectures on pedagogic subjects by qualified Professors. But probably the two Societies will assimilate more and more, especially if, as we hope, the two movements now being made in Belgium should combine. The Society for *l'Education Familiale* desires affiliation with the P.N.E.U. M. de Vuyst came to consider the matter, we believe, through reading *Home Education*, which led to a considerable correspondence concerning the *Parents' National Educational Union*. These efforts in a neighbouring country have, we are assured, the cordial good wishes of the members of the elder Union.

BOOKS.

Who's Who? 1900: An Annual Biographical Dictionary; 52nd year of issue (Adam & Chas. Black). *Who's Who?* asks for no praise from us. Everybody knows it, and nobody could do without it. Do we want to know all about Col. Baden Powell, or how Mr. Lehmann, of *Punch*, amuses himself, or who is the heir of Sir George Newnes, we have but to turn to *Who's Who?* for exact information about everybody.

The Students' Standard Dictionary (Funk & Wagnalls, 10/6). This admirable dictionary commends itself for comprehensive definitions, clear arrangement, and for the enormous number of new words, which we owe to modern science and the press, included in its columns. It is an extremely well-done abbreviation of the great *American Standard Dictionary*, which had excited the interest and admiration of English-speaking philologists. For students or for family use, we cannot imagine a more satisfactory and informing Dictionary than *The Students' Standard Dictionary*. The illustrations are admirable and very numerous. The etymology seems exhaustive. The synonyms will be appreciated by every writer, and the pleasing page and substantial binding help to make this a capital working book.

The Standard Intermediate School Dictionary (issued by the same publishers, 4/-) has as many of the merits of the larger book as can be compressed into smaller compass. But the editor has kept constantly in mind the special needs of school-boys and school-girls in the matter of clear and simple definitions.

The Penny Magazine (Cassell & Co.) contains nearly 800 pages of capital letter-press, on all sorts of subjects, including Royal Academy pictures, the Garden, Mrs. Kendal at Home, many tales, travels, reviews of books, pictures without end, all for 1/-. The volume would be appreciated in the kitchen.

The Book of Shops (Grant Richards, 6/-). Verses by Ed. B. Lucas, pictures by Francis Bedford. Here is another book which will be a great joy to children, though the grown-ups will scarcely see why; but children do not object to doggerel verses, nor do they do them any harm, and they dearly love to ponder over all the scenes in the drama of life which have their stage in shops. Here are bakers' shops, and fish shops, and book shops, and toy shops, and every shop that is, with happy family parties come to make purchases.

In Red Indian Trails, by E. S. Ellis, and *The Master of the Strong Hearts*, by S. E. Brooks (Cassell and Co., 2/6 each). Here are two books of a kind we all know very well, a kind which never misses its welcome. Boys like such books, and they have a reason for their preference, for they find imaged in them the sort of things they would themselves like to be and to do, and no doubt such books, even when they do not make any high claims upon us as literature, do their part towards making men of the boys. Both are "Red Indian" tales, and in both the heroes are fine, plucky lads blessed with courage, fortitude, sagacity, fitness for affairs, which Sir Redvers Buller himself might envy.

The Red Book of Animal Stories, by Andrew Lang (Longmans, 6/-). How the children must delight in Mr. Andrew Lang and all his ways and works! Here he is again with another Christmas book for them, as fresh and bubbling with gaiety and charm and interest as any of those that have gone before. The dedication to Miss Sybil Corbet, author of *Animal Land*, and the preface, are so charming that they are almost worth buying the book for. "I have tried to make it clear that it is not altogether a *scientific* book, but a great deal of it is more to be depended on than *A Bad Boy's Book of Beasts*, or Miss Sybil Corbet's books. . . . Indeed, I think, that when people long ago invented the Fire Drake and

Ice Beast, they were just like Miss Corbet when she invented the Kank, the Wuss, and other animals. . . . If this book has any moral at all, it is to be kind to all sorts and conditions of animals—that will let you." Then follows a delightful collection of tales, of Phoenix and Unicorn, Dragon and Fire Drake, of doubtful veracity; of all sorts and conditions of animals, within living memory, all well told, the various authors being fitly chosen, and able to tell a tale with literary power as well as sympathetic interest. For the pictures, the Fire Drake and the portrait of Greedy Squoncer we find the most irresistible.

English Lyrics, edited by W. G. Henley, new edition (Methuen, 2/6). We all have to acknowledge introductions to persons, or places, or poems, which have become dear afterwards for their own sakes. Where a poet undertakes to introduce us to the poems he loves he does us a real service, and Mr. Henley, we need not say, has done this service with the discrimination, sympathy, and *verve* of a poet. He says in his preface:—"It is easy to tell a lyric when you see one. It is not so easy to say what a lyric is." He requires that a lyric shall turn upon some single thought, feeling, and situation, and that the feeling or emotion shall oblige us to forget the other qualifications. We are glad of his insistence on *emotion* as essential to a lyric, and agree with him that such poems as Gray's *Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College* should be ruled out *because* they lack emotion. We have here a delightful anthology with some things that are new to us and many things that come with the cheer of old friends. The Publishers have done well to give us another edition of Mr. Henley's Anthology.

The Human Boy, by E. Phillpotts (Methuen, 6/-). Boys are in the ascendant this season. Mr. Kipling has given us *Stalky & Co.*, with Boy as he would choose to be,—impassive, sublime, up to many dodges, more than a match for many masters. But, in spite of himself as it were, this ideal boy's Boy from Study No. 5 is made, in Mr. Kipling's own way, to succumb to noble enthusiasms, be carried off his feet by heroic impulses. But our business is not with *Stalky & Co.*, but with Mr. Eden Phillpotts' Boys, who are, as he says, *human*. We are not sure that "Boy" will like himself *au naturel* as well as when Mr. Kipling sings him in Homeric strains. Why should he? But the Merivale boys are delightful persons just because they are quite natural. The tales of Merivale are told by various boys. There is the famous siege of the wing dormitory, then there is Freckles, the Australian boy, who went bush-ranging about Merivale in the most knowing way, and plucky little Corky Minimus, who fought a big fellow about Milly, the doctor's daughter. *The Piebald Rat*, of which Ferrars is the hero, is a very curious and psychologically interesting story of how young Ferrars took this queer pet, whom he called "Mayne Reid," for a sort of familiar without whom he could expect no luck. But every story is good as a story, and boys will read the book with delight, never doubting but that other fellows have told these tales of their chums, while to the elders is here unfolded, for instruction and amusement, boy nature as it is hardly to be met with elsewhere in print books. We bless "Mr. Chadband" for inventing "the human boy."

THE "P.R." LETTER BAG.

[The Editor is not responsible for the opinions of Correspondents.]

A HYMN FOR THE PRESENT TIME OF WAR.

[We have received this beautiful hymn in an official envelope of the P.N.E.U. We venture to reprint it, hoping it may be sung in many churches and many homes, and that many copies may be ordered of Mr. Spalding, to serve the cause.]

O Lord of Hosts, without whose Will
No wars are waged by men's decree,
Their swords Thy purposes fulfil;
The earth, O Lord, is ruled by Thee.

Lord, we believe Thy arm alone
Can save by many or by few;
All vaunting pride we would disown,
Our faith and trust in Thee renew.

Gird Thou our armies with Thy might,
Keep Thou our flag unsoiled by sin,
Help us in justice, truth and right,
The foe to face, the fight to win.

Have mercy, Lord, on those who fall,
Howe'er, as friends or foes, they stood;
Grant Thy eternal peace to all
Who find in death their brotherhood.

O'er all the wounded shed Thy cheer,
Look down in pity on their pain,
Help them to feel Thy presence near,
To soothe and comfort, bless, sustain.

Regard the mourners—all who grieve
For loss of father, husband, son;
The stricken hearts do Thou relieve,
Help Thou their prayer: "Thy will be done."

On all who serve and all who share
The sacred ministry of love,
By deed, by word, by gift, by prayer,
Pour forth Thy blessing from above.

Lord God of Hosts, Lord God of Might,
O haste the day when wars shall cease,
When o'er the earth triumphant Right
Shall reign in universal peace. AMEN.

Copies, 1d. each on card, 3d. a dozen on paper, can be obtained of W. P. SPALDING, 43, Sidney Street, Cambridge. All profits will be given to the Cambridgeshire Newmarket Branch of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association.

A. A. T.